

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, March 26, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

<p>Please note that the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.</p>

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Terry Lewis

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Hayward McNeill, Lana Brody, Carlos Sosa, and Frank Baron
- Absent: Deputy Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the month of February 2009 were approved. (Gasco/Perrou)

IV. Jerry Lubin, Chair

Jerry Lubin, Chair – Reported the following:

Public Hearing Announcement – There will be a public hearing for the MHSA Annual Plan immediately following the commission meeting.

Commission/SAAC Chairs Monthly Meeting – The group discussed the measures appearing on the ballot for the Special Statewide General Election May 19, 2009. They also discussed the legislative information presented by Susan Rajlal that pertains to Prop 63 funding.

2009 Executive Committee Election – The 2009 Nomination Committee has been created. The following Commissioners will facilitate the election process for the 2009/10 Commission officers:

Dr. Helen Wolff, Chair
Dr. Barry Perrou
Carlos Sosa

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Victoria Sofro – The 3rd Annual Connections for Life Conference will take place on April 1, 2009 at the California Endowment Center. Commissioners Helen Wolff, Barry Perrou, Jerry Lubin, Ilean Rabens, and Delores Huffman plan to attend.

Commissioner Ilean Rabens – On March 22, 2009, a CBS 60 Minutes segment aired “How Mr. Ayers and Mr. Lopez Became Friends. The segment was an interview of both Nathaniel Ayers and Steve Lopez by Morley Safer.

Commissioner Barry Perrou – Commissioner Perrou attended the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) meeting. The committee was created to developing a workable solution for operating an alternative transportation system for individuals detained in the field under WIC 5150 and 5585 by peace officers. The committee voted in favor to move forward on developing an alternative transportation system for these patients.

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman submitted the following Housing Services report:

MHSA Housing Trust Fund

The Department is in contract negotiations with awardees. The Department has completed a draft board letter requesting approval from the Board of Supervisors to enter into five-year Agreement for Supportive Services. It is anticipated that this request will go before the Board of Supervisors in mid-April.

MHSA Housing Program

Fourteen projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process (see attachment), and three have been approved for funding. The status of each project is shown below:

Initiating the Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy, Inc.
- Epworth Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Mini Twelve Step House

Technical Submission under Review and/or Posted for 30 Day Public Review & Comment

- The Ford Apartments
- Charles Cobb Apartments

Preparing Full Application for Submission

- Figueroa Apartments
- Progress Place I and II

Application Submitted to the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel’s Village
- Villas at Gower

Funding Committed

- Young Burlington
- The Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

Four projects are currently being re-posted on the Department's website due to increased funding commitments. These include the following:

- Figueroa Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Villas at Gower
- Young Burlington

The current financial crisis is continuing to have an impact on some of the projects that have applied for funding under the MHSA Housing Program since it has become increasingly difficult for projects to secure construction loans. This may result in some delays; however, the Department will keep the Mental Health Commission apprised of any new information that we receive regarding this issue.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

The MHSA Housing Advisory Board entered its third term on February 1st. The Department is currently recruiting more mental health consumers and family members to participate on this board.

The Department has initiated planning for comprehensive outreach efforts to promote the MHSA Housing program across the County of Los Angeles. We are proposing to host meetings with local Community Redevelopment Agencies, recipients of Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding, and local Councils of Governments to discuss opportunities to leverage MHSA Housing Program funding with other available funding streams.

VI. Departmental Report - Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director

Dr. Shaner discussed the following issues:

DMH Budget –

- Federal stimulus funding will be retroactive from October 2008
- Board ordered hiring freeze remains in position with the exception of Jail Mental Health Services
- DMH is stable because of MHSA funding adjustments. There is a concern for the year 2011/12 budget year.
- DMH anticipates \$3.4 million shortfall for next fiscal year.

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports - None

VIII. Public Comments - None

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. Next Meeting Information

The next scheduled meeting will be:

Thursday, April 23, 2009
10 – 11:30 am